

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 33 of 1895.]

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 17th August 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	5,000	9th August 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	10th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....	13th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	4,000	9th ditto.	
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	.....	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	7th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	4,000	9th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	10th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800		
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	200	7th to 10th and 12th August 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	200	11th, 12th, 14th and 15th August 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	500	9th, 12th and 15th August 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	1,000	8th to 10th and 13th August 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	800	8th August 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	9,000	12th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	7th, 9th, 10th, 12th and 13th August 1895.	
PERSIAN.					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	7th August 1895.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	About 400	8th August 1895.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi"	Ditto	300		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	7th August 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	11th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	9th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	7th August 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	9th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Brahma " ...	Cuttack ...	.....		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Indradhanu " ...	Ditto ...	.....	.. ..
3	"Shikshabandhu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3			
Weekly.						
1	"Samvad Vahika " ...	Balasore ...	190			
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad " ...	Ditto ...	309			
3	"Utkal Dipika " ...	Cuttack ...	412			
4	"Sambalpur Patriot " ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu " ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta " ...	Dinapur ...	1,000			
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch " ...	Bankipur ...	500	25th July 1895.		
2	"Gaya Punch " ...	Gaya ...	400			
3	"Mehre Monawar " ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan " ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjka " ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	7th August 1895.		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash " ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi " ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir " ...	Mymensingh ...	900			
2	"Dacca Prakash " ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra " ...	Ditto ...	250	10th August 1895.		
4	"Vikrampur " ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	8th ditto.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette " ...	Dacca ...	500	12th August 1895.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash " ...	Comilla ...	.....		
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini " ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet ...	.....		

Name	Rank	Regiment	Company
John Smith	Private	1st Infantry	A
James Brown	Private	2nd Infantry	B
Robert Johnson	Private	3rd Infantry	C
William Davis	Private	4th Infantry	D
Thomas Wilson	Private	5th Infantry	E
Charles Moore	Private	6th Infantry	F
George Taylor	Private	7th Infantry	G
Edward White	Private	8th Infantry	H
Frank Green	Private	9th Infantry	I
Henry Black	Private	10th Infantry	J
Arthur Clark	Private	11th Infantry	K
Donald Lewis	Private	12th Infantry	L
Richard Hall	Private	13th Infantry	M
Samuel King	Private	14th Infantry	N
Joseph Wright	Private	15th Infantry	O
Benjamin Scott	Private	16th Infantry	P
Harold Adams	Private	17th Infantry	Q
Eugene Baker	Private	18th Infantry	R
Frederick Nelson	Private	19th Infantry	S

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Bharat Mitra* of the 7th August has the following:—

Indian Musalmans in a war between England and Turkey. Russia's intention seems to be to engage England in a war with Turkey, and, when the latter will be so occupied, to attempt the long-meditated conquest of India. We have arrived at this conclusion from the fact that France, perhaps, at the instigation of Russia, is about to withdraw from her alliance with England and Russia against Turkey. The new ministry, however, has made up its mind to push on the Armenian question. A war is therefore about to break out between England and Turkey, in which the former will have to take the field against the latter single handed. If England wishes to declare war against Turkey, it should not suffer itself to be deterred from that project by the threat held out by the Musalman papers that in that event her Musalman subjects in India and the colonies will rise in defence of their spiritual head, the Sultan. If the Indian Musalmans take it into their head to attempt any such thing, England's Hindu subjects will be able to bring them to their senses.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

2. A disciple of Sir Syed Ahmad of Aligurh, writing in the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 8th August, says that there is no truth in the rumour which was set afloat by the French Press that the British Government had a hand in the late Armenian insurrection. There might have been at most in the English public a certain amount of sympathy with the Armenian Christians, in consequence of Mr. Gladstone's denunciation of the Sultan's treatment of his Christian subjects in Armenia. But the British Government would not have been to blame even if it had assisted the rebel Armenians in deference to the wishes of its subjects, for under the English constitution the Government is bound to act in conformity to the wishes of the public. It is not to be supposed that the British Government which is guided by the views of the most enlightened people of the 19th century will side with the Turks simply to please its Musalman subjects; because the Musalmans who are uneducated and incorrigible, and who have lost their ancestral character, have no vote in political questions. And as such they do not deserve the sympathy of the world.

*DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE*,
Aug. 8th, 1895.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 10th August continues its criticism of the conduct of Harish Chandra Thakurta, Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamalpur, in the Mymensingh district. The writer gives a few instances of his oppressive conduct in addition to those mentioned in a previous issue (see R. N. P. for the 10th August, paragraph 3).

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

(1) Some time ago, the Sub-Inspector charged one Ramsundar Mali, a chaukidar of Jamalpur, with not having sent any information to the police about the death of four persons—Ismail Shaikh, Govinda, Uchanga Dasi and Gendi Dasi. The chaukidar, however, proved that two of these persons, Govinda and Ismail Shaikh, were still living, and the deaths of the two others, Uchanga Dasi and Gendi Dasi, were duly registered in the police-station.

(2) Babu Haris Chandra was entrusted with the inquiry into the case of one Akher Shaikh *versus* Jehar Shaikh and others, charged under sections 147, 366 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code. In his final report which reached the Magistrate on the 10th July last, he stated that several of the accused, Jehan, Jamat, Dinu, Rupi, Gadu, Bhiru, Abdul and Barkala, had absconded from their places of abode, and prayed for the issue of warrants against them. Subsequently, however, he reported in 'A' form that only Jehan, Dinu, Rupi and Bhiru had absconded. If so, why did he at first report against innocent persons and try to bring them to trouble? Had he any motive in doing this?

(3) In the same case, the Sub-Inspector summoned Nasiman Bibi, the wife of the complainant, as a witness. He did not, however, examine the witness in his presence, and after he had submitted his final report and the witness had

been allowed by the Magistrate to go home on the condition that she would appear during the trial of the case, he requested the Magistrate to place Nasiman Bibi in his custody. After the submission of the final report the Sub-Inspector had no right to place any witness in police custody, nor had he in the present case any reason to do so, as all the accused who were reported as "still at large" had been arrested and placed in police custody. Why, then, this great desire on the part of the Sub-Inspector to keep another man's wife in his custody?

(4) One Darajulla Shaikh of Jamalpur charged about five hundred men with the offence of having forcibly fished in two *bils* belonging to him. The Sub-Inspector took full two months in investigating the case, and after much ado sent up an innocent man as an offender and reported 31 others as "still at large." The trying Deputy Magistrate, Babu Umaprasanna Guha, acquitted the accused, and in his judgment strongly criticised the conduct of the police. "The police inquiry in this case," says the Deputy Magistrate, "was as perfunctory, selfish and dilatory as possible." "From the nature and tone of the cross-examination, it appears that the investigating officer went to the spot more than once and arrested a number of the accused who were probably identified by the witnesses, and yet the officer thought it proper to note down a long list of 31 persons as absconders and sent up an obscure person, the evidence against whom is hopelessly weak." The Deputy Magistrate, therefore, "invites the attention of the authorities to the conduct of this officer." His belief is that "really guilty persons have been set free and an innocent man sent up." "The case," he further observes, "is a true one, but there is no reliable evidence against the present accused. This fact has spoiled the entire case, for if some of the really guilty men are now sent up and these very witnesses examined, their evidence will be scarcely trustworthy."

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

4. The same paper publishes the following letter which is signed by
A Sub-Inspector of Police in the four gentlemen, two of whom are personally known
Howrah district. to the editor :—

On the 1st or 2nd July last, the mother-in-law of Babu Kaliprasanna Bata-vyal of Hijlok (in Bagnan in the Ulubaria subdivision of the Howrah district) died from snake-bite. On the following morning Kali Babu communicated the news to the Police Sub-Inspector of Bagnan, and asked him to institute the usual police inquiry. After a good deal of procrastination the Sub-Inspector arrived, at 1 P.M., and at once proceeded to examine the inmates of the house. He first examined the male inmates and then required the female inmates to be placed before him for examination. The demand was not, however, acceded to, and the Sub-Inspector returned to the police-station almost burning with indignation. He then issued a summons against Kali Babu's wife requiring her to appear before him and submit herself to examination as a witness. Kali Babu's wife was at that time at Gopalpur (in the same subdivision), and when the constable went there to serve her with the summons, Kali Babu was at his mother-in-law's place in Hijlok. Kali Babu was, therefore, at once called back to Gopalpur. After a good deal of trouble, he at last induced the Sub-Inspector to give up the idea of examining his wife, but not before he had paid the constable one rupee.

The writer makes the following observations on the above :—

We do not know this Sub-Inspector of Police, nor need we know him at all. There is very little doubt, however, that he is a capital specimen of a corrupt police officer. In a simple case of death from snake-bite, where the evidence of the male inmates would have been sufficient, he unreasonably insisted on taking the evidence of the female inmates as well, and with this view he summoned to his presence the wife of Kali Babu, who was living at a distance from the place where her mother died, and was, therefore, not likely to know anything about her death. The Sub-Inspector being a native of India well knew how very jealous the natives of this country are of the honour of their women, how unwilling they are to place them before strangers, and how ready they are to sacrifice everything to save their honour. But still the Sub-Inspector insisted on examining respectable Hindu ladies on very frivolous grounds; but when at last a bribe was paid to the police he was at once softened down and no longer felt the necessity of examining the female inmates of the house.

It is well known to the people of this country that the police is corrupt to the core. They are often bribed to let off persons accused of rioting and disturbing the public peace. Their greed must be gratified before they can be induced to recognise even a complaint of theft or dacoity. The public are required by law to send to the police information about accidental deaths and suicides. But even in recording and registering these deaths the police demand gratifications from informants. These illegal gratifications are, of course, generally small. But small as they are, they are a heavy tax upon poor people. Will the Government always keep its eye closed against police corruption?

The guilt of the Sub-Inspector of Police of Bagnan will be easily proved if the Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria, who is known to be an upright man, takes the trouble to institute an inquiry into the matter. But the Bagnan Sub-Inspector is not a solitary example of a corrupt police officer. There are many like him who cannot be punished if the Government does not take the trouble to find them out and call them to account. There are very few among the Judges and Magistrates who take bribes. But the Police and the Registration Departments are sinks of corruption, while the Civil and the Criminal Court *amla* are like vultures preying upon the poor litigants who resort to the law courts. If the Government can put down this corrupt practice of taking bribes and relieve the people from the hands of its bribe-taking officers, they will be quite willing and able to pay the drainage cess.

5. The *Hitaishi* of the 13th August has learnt, on the authority of a correspondent in the *Indian Mirror*, that both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, refused to hold an enquiry into the case of a Hindu girl-wife, who died of opium-poisoning, the drug, according to the Coroner's jury, having been administered by somebody and not taken by the deceased herself. The case was extremely suspicious, and though the father of the girl repeatedly asked for a police enquiry, the police authorities refused to do so. What is the good of having a Coroner's inquest, if the opinions of that functionary and of his jury are to be slighted in this manner?

HITAISHI,
Aug. 13th, 1895.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Sahachar* of the 7th August says that though railway administrations are responsible for the security of life and property of passengers, the Indian railways do not seem to hold themselves similarly responsible in the case of native passengers, do not show the least Courtesy to them, and treat third class passengers more as beasts than as human beings. Even a Raja or a Maharaja, if he travels in his native dress, will not be allowed to enter the waiting rooms reserved at the railway stations for "gentlemen," a word, by-the-bye, which by a curious and shameful perversion of its meaning in railway stations means only men travelling in English costume, no matter whether its wearer be a white European or a black Andrew or Pedro. Once the late Maharaja of Jeypore was insulted at a railway station. The insults and inconveniences which native railway passengers now suffer can be removed only by a larger employment of natives in all offices, high and low, in railway stations. To take the case of Rajabala. A poor native girl of fifteen is travelling alone. It happens that she mislays her ticket and cannot produce it at the station where she alights from the train. Four or five European ticket collectors detain her, take her to a solitary place, and forcibly gratify their lust upon the poor creature. Does not one's blood boil to hear of such a horror? As soon as Rajabala becomes a passenger on the railway, the railway authorities become responsible for the safety of her life and honour. But how is this trust discharged? Do not their own servants commit outrage upon her? Her case is tried by a Sessions Judge, with the assistance of a jury composed partly of European and partly of native jurors, the European jurors admit the commission of the crime, but refuse to believe that the persons brought up before them are the real culprits. The entire Hindu and Muhammadan population of the country have been astounded at this result of the trial. Even if there were no witnesses, Rajabala's deposition alone would be sufficient proof of the guilt of the accused. Would a helpless Hindu girl dare in the depth of the night to bring a false charge of rape against four or five Europeans? In a case like this, evidence of eye-witnesses is

SAHACHAR,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

seldom to be had, and it was the duty of the jurors to arrive at a proper verdict from a consideration of the circumstantial evidence adduced in the case.

It is next to be asked, if the persons who were brought up for trial were not the real culprits, what is the Government doing to find out the real offenders? It is strange that the accused D'Souza has so long successfully eluded the grasp of the police. Is such a thing possible in India? The native public think that heaven and earth would have been moved, if Rajabala had been a European girl, and her case had come to an unsatisfactory issue like this.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

7. The *Sanjivani* of the 10th August understands that the Lieutenant-Governor has called for the papers connected with the Rajabala case and has demanded an explanation

from the Magistrate who committed the case to the Sessions as to why he enlarged D'Souza on bail. The people of this country will ever remain grateful to His Honour if, after going through the papers, he finds his way to adequately punishing the accused. It is now not quite safe to travel by rail with females. And this insecurity of railway travelling will become all the greater if the men who are charged with committing assault upon the chastity of women are allowed to escape scotfree.

SANJIVANI,

8. Referring to the sentence of death passed upon Stuart, a European soldier, charged with murdering a comrade, a correspondent of the same paper observes that although there is little doubt that the prisoner is

The case of a European soldier
murdering a European soldier.

really guilty of the crime with which he was charged, the sentence passed upon him is certainly very severe. Life for life is a cruel, barbarous and inhuman punishment. Such a form of punishment should not be tolerated in a civilised society, especially as innocent persons have often to pay for the crime of others with their lives owing to the existence of this form of punishment in society. In punishing an offender, his motive ought to be taken into consideration. In the case of Stuart it does not appear that he had any motive in murdering McMoith whom he missed and killed Harvey instead. After the murder was committed the prisoner was discovered to be in the full possession of his senses and sleeping soundly, and there is no reason to suspect that he had any deliberate intention to murder McMoith. This being the case, it is not right to send him to the gallows like a felon. Moreover, Stuart's conviction is based entirely upon circumstantial evidence and stronger evidence than that has not sufficed to convict European soldiers like him, who were charged with the murder of natives. The only difference between these men and Stuart is that Stuart murdered a European soldier, while the others killed poor natives. What a contrast between the white colour and the black!

Dacca Gazette,
Aug. 12th, 1895.

9. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 12th August has the following on the Rajabala case:—

The Rajabala case.

We, the people of India, have not a grain of manliness in us, the political subjection of seven hundred years has crushed out our vitality. We are voluminous in words but very poor in deeds. Oh! where is our fiery courage, our living sympathy, our unmeasured independence of mind? The long years of foreign subjection have removed all traces of those noble qualities in us. If we had life in us, if we had strength in our mind, we would not have brooded, shameless cowards that we are, over this outrage in silence. Five ruffians committed a most brutal assault upon a helpless young girl and the victim of their lust moved from door to door piteously crying and supplicating our help, but our stony hearts were not moved—we did not even shed a drop of tear of sympathy. Fie to our voluminous words, fie to our boast of education, fie to our so-called progress and advancement! The outrage was committed, so to speak, before our very eyes. We were not dead, but still we quietly pocketed the insult. Oh! shame to us! Let us hide our diminished heads in shame and let us not show our faces to the civilised world again.

An innocent girl was shamefully assaulted by five wild beasts in human shape, and yet the English law with all its superfine interpretations could not detect and punish the guilty. This is the law which was twisted in favour of the European soldier who killed a punkha-cooly at Dinapore, which often helps in the palming off of one man's guilt upon another man's shoulder, and

which in the present instance has led to the escape of the five ruffians who outraged the chastity of Rajbala. If this law is not soon amended, no man's reputation, no woman's chastity will be safe. The life and property of the people will be in jeopardy. Sir Charles Elliott is an intelligent ruler and a far-sighted statesman. Is he not moved in the least by this shameful incident taking place in the country under his rule?

Sons of India, what shall we say to you? If you have in your veins even a drop of the blood of your Aryan forefathers, if your heart is still moved to shame and indignation and revenge in seeing your women insulted, then come forward and join the poor outraged girl in her piteous appeal, so that it may reach the throne of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. Here is a sterling opportunity to prove your manliness if you still have a grain of that virtue left in your breast. See how the poor outraged girl with her hair dishevelled, her face pale with shame and indignation is moving from door to door with a distracted countenance, mournfully supplicating help and sympathy. See her, outcasted, forsaken by husband, parents and friends, going to resign her life, blasted as it is, to the service of God. Oh! let us not sit idle. Let us come to the rescue of the poor girl and raise a fund for her support. And let us proclaim from one end of the civilised world to the other the shameful failure of the British law in punishing the guilty. The blessing of God will be upon us and we shall then feel our moral strength coming back to us. Let us also take the solemn oath that so long as this shameful defect in the law is not mended, we will not travel with our women in steamers or in railway carriages. We are the descendants of men who are famous in history for their spiritual elevation, for their courage and for their independence. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the rich and glorious heritage they have left behind.

(d)—Education.

10. In regard to the introduction of the *Manimanjari* in the Sanskrit College, the *Sahachar* of the 7th August writes as follows:—

SAHACHAR,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

The *Manimanjari* controversy.

Nilmani Babu has acted rightly by substituting the *Manimanjari* for the *Mugdhabodh* in the Sanskrit College, because his object in doing so is to pave the way for the introduction of the study of *Panini* in the institution. No Sanskrit scholar or lover of Sanskrit learning can therefore blame Nilmani Babu for the change he has made. The editor of the *Hitavadi* must be aware that the late Pandit Vidyasagar made a similar change when he was Principal of the College. The editors of the *Hitavadi* and the *Indian Nation* appear to think that the *Mugdhabodh* is read everywhere in Bengal, and therefore say that Nilmani Babu has done wrong by abolishing its study in the Sanskrit College. Even if the study of the *Mugdhabodh* were so general as is thought, Nilmani Babu could not be found fault with for trying to replace it by *Panini*, the highest authority in Sanskrit grammar. But the fact is that not in Bengal alone, but everywhere in India, the study of the *Mugdhabodh* is very limited. In Bengal the *Sankshipta Sar* is read in the districts on the west of the Bhagirathi, the *Supadma* in the northern parts of the 24-Parganas district, the *Kalapa* in most places in East Bengal, and the *Prayogaratnamala* in Rangpur and other places in Northern Bengal. In the Bombay Presidency itself, which is the birthplace of the author of the *Mugdhabodh*, the study of that book has been discontinued. In the North-Western Provinces the book most widely read is the *Laghu-Kaumudi*. The reason why the study of the *Mugdhabodh* is not very extensive is that it requires a long time, but does not yield a commensurate result. This is why the late Pandit Vidyasagar abolished the *Mugdhabodh*. It was, indeed, restored by Pandit Nyayaratna, but with what result can be best ascertained by examining in grammar those *alumni* of the College who received their instruction under the Pandit's régime. Pandit Nyayaratna himself read his grammar, from the *Sankshipta Sar* and not from the *Mugdhabodh*.

It may be urged against Nilmani Babu's plan that if the *Mugdhabodh* cannot be finished in less time than five to seven years, how will he make the boys go through the vastly larger book *Panini* in the shorter period in which the College classes are passed through? But this is not a real difficulty, for though *Panini* is a larger book than the *Mugdhabodh*, it is much easier than the latter.

Under Pandit Vidyasagar, the rudiments of grammar were learnt from the Pandit's own *Kaumudi* and *Panini* was next taken up. Babu Nilmani's *Manimanjari* is as well adapted to serve as a preliminary to *Panini* as *Kaumudi*, because the rules in the *Manimanjari* are all taken in an abbreviated form from *Panini*, and the very language of *Panini* has been adopted in it. One does not see why the editor of the *Indian Nation* has dragged Pandit Nyayaratna's name into the controversy. The Pandit may or may not have anything to do with it; but the public do not care to know it.

A word or two about the errors which the *Hitavadi* has been pointing out in the *Manimanjari*. Every human work is imperfect and so the *Manimanjari*. Again, it is not difficult to find fault with a thing, if one is determined to find fault with it. As Nilmani Babu did not intend his book to be an exhaustive treatise on Sanskrit grammar, his omission of the unimportant rules of Sanskrit grammar is perfectly excusable. The *Hitavadi* which is so loud in its denunciation of the so-called errors in the *Manimanjari* would have assumed quite another tone if it had been engaged to hold a brief on behalf of Nilmani Babu.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

The *Manimanjari*.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 9th August continues its criticism of the Sanskrit grammar *Manimanjari*.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

12. Referring to the remark of the Lieutenant-Governor in the course of his speech at the anniversary meeting of the Science Association that the Government is prepared to provide for graduates in Geology, the *Sanjivani* of the 10th August says that Babu Sasi Bhusan Basu took his M.A. degree in that subject long before the Geological classes in the Presidency College were opened. Babu Sasi Bhusan is not only the first graduate in Geology in Bengal, but is also an M.A. in Philosophy. His knowledge of Geology is not merely book knowledge. It is eminently practical as he was for sometime connected with the Geological Survey both in Bhupal and in Nepal. The Government will clearly lay itself open to the charge of partiality if it ignores the claim of Babu Sasi Bhusan and provides for the graduates of the Presidency College without first providing for him.

SANJIVANI.

13. The same paper has the following:—

At the meeting of the History Board of the Calcutta University, held on the 7th August last, Mr. Prothero proposed that Babu Haraprasad Sastri's *History of India in English* be selected as the text-book on Indian History for the candidates for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, in the place of Mr. R. C. Dutt's work on the same subject. Babus Narendra Lal De and Bholanath Pal opposed the proposal, and it was at last resolved on the motion of Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose that the consideration of the question be postponed for three months. At the same meeting some of the members pointed out mistakes in Babu Haraprasad Sastri's book, upon which Mr. Prothero admitted that there were mistakes in it, but at the same time assured the members that they would be corrected before the book was given to the public. It will, however, be to the eternal shame of the Calcutta University if it selects as a text-book a book bristling with errors, on the condition that they would be afterwards corrected. We cannot even imagine how an educated man like Mr. Prothero could make a proposal like the one in question. What error is there in Mr. Dutt's book that it should be forced to yield itself to another book bristling with errors? Why, again, this hot haste to get Babu Haraprasad's book selected as a text-book? Let the book be published, let the public go through it and judge for themselves. If Babu Haraprasad's book turns out to be really superior to that of Mr. Dutt, no one will object to its being selected as a text-book.

We have not carefully gone through Babu Haraprasad's book. But what we have seen of it already does not lead us to entertain a very high opinion of its merits. The style is slipshod and halting, and Babu Haraprasad, who is a Professor of Sanskrit, ought not to have been led away by the hobby of writing a book in English. He says in the preface that he was materially assisted by Mr. Furrell, Editor, *Calcutta Review*, in getting up the book. Did Mr. Furrell write some portions of the book for the author, or did he only revise his manuscript? But in spite of Mr. Furrell's revision, the book is full of mistakes, and it is quite clear that Babu Haraprasad does not know English

enough to write a text-book in English for the candidates for the Entrance Examination. Here are a few instances:—

- (a) In page 262, the author writes:—"Popular education is given through the vernaculars and the high education through the medium of English." Why is the definite article placed before 'high education,' and not before 'popular education?' It ought not to be placed before either.
- (b) In the same page also occur the following lines:—"It will thus be seen that no Government ever bestowed so much attention to the task of securing the lives and properties of its subjects, not only from foreign and domestic enemies, but even from the visitations of the Providence." In this passage, the use of the preposition 'to' after the verb to 'bestow' is a mistake, as also the use of the definite article before 'Providence.' In the same passage, the author's language would lead one to think that he places the British Government above Providence. That is not, however, his meaning. His language is too lame and halting to express his thought.
- (c) Here is another quotation from the same page:—"But it was reserved for the British Government to grapple successfully with these periodical visitations by draining marshes, supplying the population with filtered water and establishing organized system of conservancy and sanitary works." To make this sentence correct the indefinite article 'an' ought to have been placed before the word 'organized.'
- (d) Here is a passage from page 17:—"All who read them aspired for a higher and holier life." Here the use of the preposition 'for' after the verb to aspire is a mistake.
- (e) In page 16, the author writes:—"The Aryyavarta," in page 20, 'Aryyavarta' which of the two uses is correct?
- (f) In another place, the author writes:—"Many centuries of incessant hostilities were occupied in conquering the Northern and Southern Hindusthan. The fall of Marich, Ravana, and so on in the Ramayana, and of Hidimba, Bakasura, and so on in the Mahabharata, revives the memory of these hostilities. The use of the definite article before the word 'Northern' is a mistake. The repeated use of "so on" seems to be a characteristic of the book.

We have not gone through the whole of the book yet, but the extracts we have already made from it will be sufficient to give one an idea of its merit. In our opinion, the book will serve school-masters as an inexhaustible source from which to draw sentences and passages for corrections to be set to their boys as school exercises. It is difficult to understand why a book like this should at all be proposed as a text-book, unless we were to believe that the University did not mind mistakes in text-books on history, as they do not mind the grammatical mistakes committed by Entrance candidates in answering questions on history.

14. The *Bangavasi* of the 10th August observes that the new rule laid down by Dr. Bomford, Principal of the Medical College, has taken the public by surprise. The rule

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

proposes to practically rusticate all boys who will not be able to pass the class examinations. Dr. Bomford's motive in making the rule is no doubt very commendable. He thinks that the rule will act as an incentive to idle boys and will compel them to prepare their lessons well. The rule, however, is a very drastic one and is not supported by any precedent; there is no such rule in any other school or college. As in every other school or college, so also in the Medical College, there are good boys and bad boys. The bad boys will take more time than the good boys in qualifying themselves for the final examination. But when they willingly put themselves to the trouble and expense of preparing themselves for the final examination, why deprive them of the chance of ever passing it? It is to be expected that in his sober moments, Dr. Bomford will find out his mistake and rectify it himself. It is said that soon after issuing the notification in question, Dr. Bomford has struck off the names of four students of the fifth year class on the ground that they did not appear in a *post-mortem* examination. This is surely too hard.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 12th, 1895.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th August says that Dr. Bomford, Principal of the Medical College, has made a rule which his predecessors did not even dream of.

In no other school or college is there a rule practically rustivating a student who fails to pass a class or even a University examination. If there had been such a rule in the college in which Dr. Bomford was taught, he could not have become the Principal of the Medical College and lord it over his pupils there, so devoid he appears to be of common sense. In the opinion of many people, the abolition of the Medical College will do more good than harm to the country. The spread of the European system of medicine in this country has done more good to the British people than to the people of India, and the Government is interested in the advancement of the European system of medical treatment in this country, which it has so long tried to foster at the public expense. It is probable that the Government has made up its mind to abolish the Medical College, thinking that the medical schools and the military classes are sufficient for the purpose of recruiting men to fill the subordinate posts in the medical service, while the higher posts will be kept reserved for men recruited from England. On this supposition alone we can understand Dr. Bomford's motive in laying down the drastic rule in question. The Government is no longer bound to provide for the students who pass the final medical examinations. Where is then the necessity of preventing students from joining the Medical College? Will the reduction of the number of students be more convenient to the professors? In that case, they may as well choose to lecture empty benches. The rule laid down by the young Principal of the Medical College is, to say the least of it, a most extraordinary one.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 9th August has the following:—

The Ranaghat kerosine shop case. Mr. Monroe, who is now a Missionary in Ranaghat, was one day driving past a kerosine shop, when some empty tins, in the course of removal, made a clanging noise. Mr. Monroe's horse took fright, and rider and syce had much to do to keep the animal under control. When passing away Mr. Monroe expressed the threat that he would cause the shop to be closed. At one time Mr. Monroe held the high office of Commissioner of the Division, and he is, therefore, on very intimate terms with the powers that be, and can pass what orders he pleases against the Subdivisional Officer. For instance, during a cholera epidemic sometime ago, he had the local officers reprimanded by the higher authorities, whenever the former allowed any patient under the treatment of his son, who is a doctor, to place himself under the treatment of any other practitioner. Babu Akshay Kumar Ghosh, the owner of the kerosine shop, was unfortunate enough to incur the displeasure of such a personage as Mr. Monroe. He had, therefore, no chance of an easy escape.

In March last Akshay Babu made an application for a renewal of his license. The application was not granted. He made another application in June last, but got no reply. Shortly after, however, he was shown by the Chairman of the Municipality a letter from Mr. K. C. De, the Subdivisional Officer, informing the Chairman that the shop in its present situation was a source of danger to the public, and ought to be removed. The Chairman, accordingly, served the owner with a notice requiring him to remove the shop within a week and refusing to grant him a license. The matter, however, coming to the notice of the Municipal Commissioners on the 20th July last, they ordered the issue of a license to the owner. On the 25th July, Mr. K. C. De, under the instructions of the District Magistrate, Mr. Garrett, informed the Chairman that the order issued by the Commissioners could have no force, as they had no power to issue it before fixing the boundaries of the municipal area. At the meeting of the 3rd August last, the Commissioners expressed dissatisfaction at this uncalled for interference with their action, and passed a resolution stating that they had full power to grant the license and had acted within the law, in granting it, and that the District Magistrate might send up the papers of the case to Government if he did not agree with the Commissioners in their decision.

The moral courage shown by the Municipal Commissioners of Ranaghat is very gratifying. The writer had no wish to let the public know how Mr.

Monro is connected with the case. But as the matters have been allowed to proceed a little too far, it is right to let the public know the real cause of Babu Akshay Kumar's troubles.

17. Referring to the reply of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to Babu Norendra Nath Sen's interpellation on the use of unparliamentary language towards him by Mr. Skrine, the *Sanjivani* of the 10th August observes that if the Chairman is not prepared to take notice at a subsequent meeting of unparliamentary language used at a previous meeting, he ought to have taken a serious notice of Mr. Skrine's conduct at the meeting in which he unjustifiably fell foul of a brother Commissioner. He would have most probably done so if a native Commissioner had abused a European in a meeting of the Corporation.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 10th 1895.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

18. The *Sanjivani* of the 10th August writes as follows:—

The Rajabala case. Are we so very inert? A case like the Rajabala case has not taken place in this country for a long time. But a shameful incident like this takes place before our eyes and still we remain tongue-tied and motionless. If the incident had taken place in any other country, the whole country would have, as it were, caught fire—there would have been a great sensation created in every town and city. Four Europeans have committed a brutal assault upon a helpless native girl, and we have calmly pocketed the insult. Why is not an indignation meeting at once held in the Town Hall? Why do not all the public bodies and associations clamour for justice to the injured girl? Shall we remain silent for ever? Shall we not even send a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor praying for a retrial of the case?

SANJIVANI.

19. Referring to the collision at the Jagati station on the Eastern Bengal

The Jagati accident. Railway, the same paper observes that, according to the version of the railway authorities, there were only 300 passengers in the train, which collided with the goods train. Of these three hundred passengers only five are said to have been slightly wounded. There were no European passengers in the train, and the European driver of the passenger train escaped with slight injuries. The version of the Railway authorities cannot be taken on trust, although there is no means of refuting or contradicting it. The accident took place at dead of night at a place far from human habitation, and who can say what actually happened there at that time? One cannot induce oneself to believe that the accident which actually smashed a number of carriages, and dislocated the rail in several places, did nothing more beyond slightly injuring five passengers.

SANJIVANI.

20. Referring to the railway accident at Jagati, a correspondent of the

The Jagati accident. same paper observes that owing to the carefulness of the driver of the passenger train, a catastrophe was averted, and the accident did no other harm besides slightly injuring a few passengers, none of whom, moreover, is likely to die. The accident was due solely to the carelessness of the station staff of Jagati or Poradah. The railway authorities, too, are responsible for it. Most of the trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway line are run at night, but almost all the stations are at night placed in charge of poorly-paid officers. It is a wonder that, under these circumstances, accidents do not take place every day.

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21. A correspondent of the same paper observes that the share-holders of

The Bengal Provincial Railway. the Bengal Provincial Railway Company are sorry to see that the Directors have not cared to answer the questions raised by a correspondent in a previous issue of the paper (see Report on Native Papers for the 20th of July, paragraph 26) in connection with certain defects in the management of the line. Why do not the Directors also publish Babu Annada Prasad Roy's letter, in which he pointed out some defects in the construction and management of the line? If the Directors do not publish the letter, Annada Babu will do well to publish it himself. One of the promoters, Babu Sriram Chandra Basu, assured the shareholders that the line would pay a large profit. But what about the profit now? In a previous meeting of the company, the Secretary, Babu Amirta Lal Roy, assured the shareholders that

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he would not draw his full pay (Rs. 200) until the line was paying. But he is already drawing full pay. Is, then, the line paying? If so, why is no dividend paid to the shareholders?

(A)—General.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 9th August has the following:—

The Deoghur oppressions.

As Government is making an enquiry into the arbitrary conduct of the officials in Deoghur, we feel it our duty to lay more facts before it.

Unlawful exaction of provisions has been going on for a long time not only in Deoghur, but in Jamtara, Dumka and the adjoining places also. Goats, sheep, fowls and eggs are taken, and the poor raiyats from whom these are taken are told that the price would be paid hereafter, and, not unoften, they are sent away without any reference to the question of price at all. And as the people dare not ask for the price, they have to supply provisions and suffer their loss in silence.

We have before us an original notice issued by Mr. Heard. We could have collected a number of such notices if we had tried to do so earlier; the only obstacle in the way of getting them was that the people feared to place them in our hands. Mr. Heard is now hunting up these notices and destroying them. Still, we could produce sufficient evidence that Mr. Heard took provisions free of charge from the people, and had the same sold in public auction held in the court premises by his nazir. The notice which we have in our possession runs as follows:—

“ *

* *

* *

Ghatwal.

Take notice— *

* *

* *

“That 32 fowls being urgently required by the undersigned, you are ordered to send the same immediately on receipt of this notice. The price will be sent afterwards.

(Seal of the Court.)

7th April 1894.

HERBERT HEARD,

Sub-Divisional Officer, &c.”

On the back of this notice the words “at four o'clock” are written. It is needless to say that the price of the articles demanded and supplied under the above notice has not yet been paid. The very chaukidars have exacted goats, &c., from the Sonthals, Ghatwals and other poor residents, without paying for them. The oppressions are committed not by one man, nor in one place. The whole lot of officials in the district have gained a notoriety for arbitrary conduct in this respect. On the 13th July last, Mr. Cornelius, a Missionary gentleman resident in Jamtara, wrote as follows:—

“The poor oppressed ones submitted to being robbed, not daring to complain against the Magistrate Sahib, fearing that they would by so doing drag down upon themselves the wrath of the mighty. They were robbed by village chaukidars and constables, who also robbed for themselves as they pleased, without fear. I knew of the shameful and unjust affairs carried on here by the Subdivisional Officer and his underlings, but felt powerless to prevent the robberies carried on. Whenever the people told me of their grievances, I told them that nothing could be done unless they mustered together and went, a good number of them, to the burra sahib (Deputy Commissioner) in Dumka. Dumka in 40 miles from here. For this none had courage enough, and would rather submit to being robbed now and then than to go there.”

The same gentleman also wrote as follows in connection with a certain case in which an old Sonthal woman had her collar bone broken for refusing to part with her goat:—

“I also helped a poor old deaf Sonthal woman into the Court here to put in her complaint. She had been robbed several times. When a chaukidar came and took out a goat from her house, and she held on to it, he struck her and had broken one of her collar bones. Her indignation and excitement strengthened her in her pain, and she with her son followed the goat to the Magistrate's. They were threatened and put in ward in the Court Babu's room in the Court, and had to beg and entreat to be released. She had several

witnesses, and the chaulikdar himself confessed to having taken the goat for Mr. . Yet this case also was dismissed."

If the higher authorities had taken earlier notice of the reports of oppressions like the one referred to above, there would have been no necessity for newspaper agitation or for interpellation in the Council. The oppressions have thrown the whole of the Sonthal Parganas into a panic. If the enquiry which Government has undertaken fails to bring out the whole truth, we will be willing to produce witnesses. It is to be hoped that Government will come to no *ex-parte* decision, but will give this paper an opportunity of proving the allegations which it has made against Mr. Heard.

We will not cease to ventilate the grievances of the people of the Sonthal Parganas so long as the practice of forcing them to supply provisions free of charge, or at inadequate prices, and to supply labour on similar terms, is not put a stop to. We have given publicity to various acts of high-handedness committed by Mr. Heard, but the practice of taking provisions without paying for them has become so common and such a crying evil, that the authorities should direct their attention to it first. If sufficient evidence is not forthcoming to criminate the officials, if the records of any cases are wanting, if evidence of the sale of surplus provisions by the court nazir is wanted, the *Hitavadi* will do its best to supply the evidence. The only thing prayed for is that Government will not, for the sake of its own prestige, show any remissness in making the enquiry a thorough one.

23. A correspondent of the same paper requests Government to increase the pay of the officers of the lowest rank in the Postal Department from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month. In no other office under Government is there a single post of clerk carrying a salary of less than Rs. 20. In mercantile offices, too, there is no salary which does not exceed that amount, and the men employed in them have, besides, many lawful perquisites. The amla of a zamindar, it is true, generally get smaller salaries than Rs. 20, but they get lands free of rent in addition, and many other allowances. The pittance of fifteen rupees given to the officers of the Postal Department referred to hardly enables them to live from hand to mouth.

The post-masters alone are given quarters free of cost. Officers of lower rank are not allowed the same privilege, though they, too, have to work at night. This arrangement causes the lower officers serious inconvenience, as they have to work in one place, eat their food in another, and sleep in a third. That these officers get no promotion is also a great hardship to them. There may be a fortunate man here and a fortunate man there who get rapid lifts, but most officers in the lowest grade do not get a promotion in the course of six or seven years. There should be a rule giving the officers in this grade promotion within two years.

24. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 12th August says that sub-registrarships in Bengal have become a sacred preserve for the Musalmans. A sub-registrarship has been newly created in Faridganj in Chandpur, in the Tippera district. Two Hindus and a Musalman applied for the post. One of the Hindu applicants was a graduate, but still the post has been given to the Musalman applicant, who is ignorant of English. It is said that it is the policy of Sir Charles Elliott to appoint Musalmans alone to the rural sub-registrarships.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 12th, 1895.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

25. The *Sahachar* of the 7th August says that the Sanitary Drainage Bill has been passed by ten against seven votes. The elected members present, with the exception of Maulvi Muhammad Yusuf, voted in a body against the Bill, and all the official members voted for it. If Mr. Womack, the representative of the Trades Association, had been present in the Council, he would have certainly voted against the measure. So would the member for Purnea, if one had been elected. Leaving, therefore, Muhammad Yusuf aside, who, by the-by, is a Government nominee and not an elected member, the non-official members in a body, representing the entire population of the province, objected to the passing of

SAHACHAR,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

the Bill, and the Bill has been passed by nothing more than an official majority. It was not right to pass the Bill in utter disregard of the unanimous opinion of the province.

The most curious thing about the passing of the measure, however, is that though the official members voted as one man in favour of it, they were, not unanimous as to its object. In his well-remembered Dacca speech, the Lieutenant-Governor said that the object of the Bill was not to drain small marshy areas so as to make them fit for cultivation, but to facilitate the drainage of extensive areas by opening up silted-up canals and rivers, and thereby improve the health of the province. His Honour thought that the silting up of the water-courses of the province was the sole cause of its unhealthiness. People naturally thought that the Lieutenant-Governor's secretaries would take the same view of the object of the Bill as their Chief. But no: according to Mr. Lyall, the mover of the Bill, the object of the measure was to facilitate the drainage of small areas; according to Mr. Risley its object was to drain large areas. Certainly it was not right and proper to pass a measure about the object of which its supporters themselves were so divided in opinion. But, for all that, the Bill has been passed. It is certain that a cess will be imposed, but it is not yet known how the money that will be collected will be expended. After the breach of faith that Government has been guilty of in several similar matters, people can put no faith in the assurances it has given in connection with the new measure. The harm that will be done by the Sanitary Drainage Act will be irremediable. It constitutes a violation of the Permanent Settlement, and it will therefore fill the minds of the people of Bengal with a distrust of the ruling power. The writer would, therefore, entreat Government not to give effect to the new Act until the surplus of the road cess has been proved to be inadequate for drainage work in those places where drainage work is indispensable.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Aug. 8th, 1895.

26. *The Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 8th August says that it was a great mistake on the part of the Government of India to have the Pilgrim Ships Bill drafted by a

The Pilgrim Ships Bill.

Select Committee with no Muhammadan member on it. And it will make another great mistake if it now passes the Bill into law without any regard to the public criticisms on it. For that will make the leaders of the Musalman community think that the Government's object in framing the Act is to interfere with the religion of its Musalman subjects. In fact, if some of the provisions of the Bill are not done away with, very few Musalmans will find it possible to proceed to Mecca.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 8th, 1895.

27. *The Sulabh Dainik* of the 8th August has something to say against the passing of the Drainage Bill. The Lieutenant-Governor did not do well in rejecting the prayer

The passing of the Drainage Bill.

of the Maharaja of Darbhanga that the passing of the Bill might be postponed for three months. The Government could have safely granted this prayer. Drainage works could proceed during the rainy season, and there would have been no harm in passing the Bill during the winter session of the Council. Moreover, one of the mufassal members has not yet taken his seat in the Council, and in passing a Bill like the one under notice, his opinion ought to have been consulted. It is also probable that if the Bill had been under the consideration of the Select Committee for a further period of three months, their opinion might have materially changed. In his speech on the occasion of the passing of the Bill, the Lieutenant-Governor went out of his way and so far forgot himself that he roundly abused one of the hon'ble members who opposed the passing of the Bill, and also the public bodies and Associations who had memorialised the Government praying for its rejection. The conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor was not dignified and did not certainly raise him in the estimation of the public. The principal objection to the Bill lies against its cess sections. This cess is virtually a tax on the land, but the Government cannot impose a tax like this without violating the permanent settlement. By imposing the road and public works cesses the Government has already committed, so to speak, a breach of promise and has virtually offended against law as well as morality.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 9th August says that, with the solitary exception of Muhammad Yusuf, all the non-official members of the Lieutenant-Governor's Council protested against the passing of the Sanitary Drainage Bill, because they could not approve of the sections relating to the imposition of a new cess. The Bill was passed by an official majority. Mr. Smyth has earned the thanks of the public by voting against the imposition of the cess, and it is a pity that Muhammad Yusuf, a native member, could not express the same sympathy with the people of the country as Mr. Smyth, a foreigner, did. No one is surprised at the conduct of Mr. R. C. Dutt and Nawab Ameer Hossein in voting in favour of the Bill, because they must be worth their salt. But Muhammad Yusuf's conduct was shameful.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

29. The *Banganivasi* of the 9th August says that it is now given out that a high European official tried his best to bring about the failure of the Dacca election. He tried to dissuade Raja Suryya Kanta from retiring from the field in favour of Babu Guruprasad, so that an official might at last be easily returned to the Legislative Council. The Raja, however, proved insensible to official blandishment and cajolery, and at last retired from the field with the sole object of bringing about the election of Babu Guruprasad. Had not the Drainage Bill anything to do with this official move?

BANGANIVASI,
Aug. 9th, 1895.

30. The *Banganivasi* of the 10th August has the following:—

BANGANIVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

The patriots and the passing of the Drainage Bill. The British officials in India are far sighted statesmen. They make their political moves after a good deal of calculation. Those that are initiated into the secrets of the Government are well aware of this fact, and they know that an administrative move made now is but a link in a chain of movements leading to an end in the far future. The uninitiated, however, do not know this, and they are often taken by surprise by a covert move, of which they had no idea or inkling before. They do not and cannot see through all the possible moves that may be made, and they are therefore in the end very likely to make a sorry figure. In the matter of the Drainage Bill it is exactly this that has taken place, and the British officials have thoroughly outwitted our so-called patriots and politicians and taken the wind out of their sails. They saw that they could have the people on their side in passing the Drainage Bill by putting forward the plea that the construction of drains would drive away malaria from the country. As soon as the idea was conceived it had to be given effect to. It was not for a moment considered whether the construction of drains would really rid the country of malaria. It is not in the line of the British officials in India to stop to consider the advisability of a measure which they have once taken it into their head to carry out. They did not even stop to inquire into the causes which have led to the obstruction of drains—for they knew that they might by so doing injure the interests of British merchants and capitalists by doing something prejudicial to the interest of the railways which are admittedly the principal cause of obstruction of drainage. They could not belie their national instincts, or act against the principles which guide their administrative policy.

The officials were bent upon carrying out the measure they had conceived. But the carrying out of the measure required money. Where was this money to come from? The public treasury was almost empty, and the Government was in eternal want of pence on that account. Who then should pay for the carrying out of the measure if the Government could not pay for it? The people, of course—the poverty-stricken, half-starved people of India. But then, there were the clamorous agitators who were to be dreaded. If a tax were imposed, this clamorous pack would be sure to ply their tongues and carry on an interminable agitation in this country and in England. They must be muzzled. And therefore there was held the "Belvedere Conference," to which were invited Surendranath and his friends—the people's favourites but the officials' eyesores. These men caught the bait. The patriots played to the official tune, and the official hospitality was extended to them without stint. Surendranath, the patriot of patriots, supported the Government and became the father of the Drainage Bill. This was exactly what the officials urged in their favour in

passing the Drainage Bill. To those who protested against the passing of the Bill, they said, as if with a smile of sarcasm, ill-suppressed:—

"The measure you oppose, the Bill the passing of which you say will encroach upon the scanty resources of the half-starved peasants and prove disastrous to the interest of the landed classes, is the offspring of your Surendranath, your patriot and politician, your representative in the Legislative Council. It owes its origin and development entirely to his zeal, energy and intelligence. The Lieutenant-Governor or Mr. Risley had no share in its conception. It is the crowning result of that Local Self-Government of which you are so proud; it is the most glorious proof of the far-sighted statesmanship of the people's representative—Surendranath. We wanted to pass a measure and we have got it passed smoothly through the efforts of your own representatives. Here is a sight worth seeing. Here is a lesson you should ponder over and profit by. We have done you inestimable good. We have helped you to find out the stuff your patriots are made of—how small is the measure of their statesmanship, how shallow is their political insight."

Surendranath at last saw how cleverly he had been caught in the meshes of his own net. He tried to get out of them, but in vain. He was in a pitiable plight and his discomfiture was complete when he pretended to disown his own offspring. But no more of Surendranath. Through his foolishness, he has helped in the forging of fetters which will bind the people hard and fast. They will feel the cruelty of the law when, in order to realize the tax, their little all will be sold away by public auction. They will then appreciate the foresight, the statesmanship, the patriotism of the people's representative. Surendranath, it was in an evil hour that you were dismissed from Government service and chose to turn out a patriot.

But the dismissal of Surendranath has given us an opportunity of seeing him sitting side by side with Mr. R. C. Dutt and almost agreeing with him, official as he is, in his sympathies and opinions. It has given us an opportunity of knowing the purpose for which Hindu youths renounce their religion and society, receive an English education, and put on an Anglicised garb. The Lieutenant-Governor has shown us that in spite of their high education, their high posts and their Anglicised manners and customs, our educated men are entirely guided by selfish interests. They learn the Englishman's vices, but not the Englishman's virtues—not the self-denial and sacrifice which an Englishman can make for his countrymen. Their thoughts and sympathies are diametrically opposed to those of their countrymen. Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutt, you are a civilian, you are a great man, you boast of your experience of the inner life of the people, and you have written books on the condition of the Indian peasantry. But what a lesson you have taught us in your official capacity! You profess to be a friend of the Indian peasant, you have an inveterate dislike for the zamindar and his permanent settlement. But what a proof have you given of your sympathy for the people by supporting the imposition of a tax upon the ill-fed and ill-clad Bengal peasant! But godspeed to you all—Godspeed, even to Babu Isan Chandra Mittra, who, like Surendranath, advocated the measure in its conception, but condemned it when it was a finished product. He too tried to cut through the meshes of his own net. But all was in vain. After him came three more native members who, however, openly supported the Government even at the last moment. Two of them, Rai Durgagati Bahadur and Nawab Syed Ameer Hossain, are in the pay of the Government and could not therefore be expected to vote against their masters. As for Muhamad Yusuf, he owes his eminence to official favour, and he did not fail to prove his gratitude.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Aug. 12th, 1895.

31. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 12th August admires the sanitary drainage scheme of Sir Charles Elliott, and says that it will tend to improve the general health of Bengal, but objects to His Honour's proposal to levy a drainage tax from the zamindars instead of from the Railway companies, for whose benefit the natural water-courses have been obstructed.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 12th, 1895.

32. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th August writes as follows:—
The Drainage Act.
The drainage cess will be imposed upon the landed classes with the object of removing obstructions in the drainage channels

of the Bengal villages. How far the object of the law will be gained cannot be said. It will no doubt greatly facilitate communication in the rural districts, if drainage obstructions are really removed. It is, however, almost a Herculean task to properly drain the Bengal villages. In the Hooghly and Burdwan districts at least, the task is almost an impossibility. The drainage of these two districts has been obstructed by the railway. It is impossible for the people of these districts to find outlets for the water collecting there without either doing away with the railway, which is impossible, or forcing the railway authorities to supply the line with more culverts. In the Hooghly district the railway line should be supplied with additional culverts. In Burdwan, not only should the railway line be supplied with more culverts, but the Damodar should also be supplied with additional sluice-gates. Dredging a few silted-up rivers and canals alone will not be sufficient for the purpose of draining the Bengal villages.

As for the drainage tax, it would be quite as objectionable if it were imposed upon the entire village population and not upon the landed classes alone. The imposition of the drainage cess upon the landed classes will no doubt interfere with the principles of the Permanent Settlement. But will the principles of the Permanent Settlement be less interfered with if the tax is imposed upon the whole population including the landed classes? If you are to carry on an agitation against the drainage cess, let your agitation be directed against the tax as a whole, and not merely against the particular provisions of the Act defining its imposition. But such agitation will be of no avail. Neither the Government of India, nor the Secretary of State, nor even the British Parliament will come to our rescue. Whatever their profession the British officials of the present day are decidedly against the Permanent Settlement, and our experience tells us that there is very little probability of our ever being able to thwart them in their purpose. All that we can do at the present moment is to learn to suffer and to wait.

33. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th August considers the system of having a few elected members in the Legislative Councils more injurious than beneficial to the country. Elected members will never have the power of defeating any bad object of the Government, but they will always possess ample opportunities for helping the Government in carrying out measures which are not calculated to further the best interests of the people. Besides, Government will always try to avert the odium of passing unpopular enactments, by throwing the responsibility of such measures on some elected member or other. The passing of the Sanitary Drainage Bill is an illustration in point. The scape-goat in this case was Babu Surendranath Banerjee. Government carried its point by throwing upon him the odium of the enactment. It would be better not to have any, but official, members in the Legislative Councils.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 15th, 1895.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

34. The *Bangavasi* of the 10th August writes as follows:—

The present condition of Independent Tippera. There was a time when the people of Comilla monopolised not only the loaves and fishes of the Tippera Government Service, but also filled the posts of ministerial servants in the State. It is true that the natives of a country, being thoroughly acquainted with the wants and grievances of the people are very likely to govern them best and promote the welfare of the country. This, however, did not prove to be the case in Tippera, and the Maharaja, seeing that the old system was leading to misgovernment and disorder, introduced new elements into the administration and appointed men hailing from other parts of Bengal to the highest posts in the Tippera Government Service. It was at this time that men like Babu Radha Ruman Ghosh, the Maharaja's Private Secretary, and Babu Rajmohun Mitra, the Maharaja's Dewan, came to Tippera. And it is to their efficient administration that the State owes its present prosperity. Babu Dinabandhu Thakur, the well-known Dewan of the Maharaja, also followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, Babu Nilmani Das. He dismissed all the Comilla men and brought competent men from different parts of Bengal to fill their posts.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

Since then the State is being most efficiently governed. But the tongues of bad men cannot remain idle. Those that were dismissed from the Maharaja's service are now falling foul of his administration, and are telling lies about him and his present adviser. We pity these men. Facts and figures give the lie direct to their foul and malicious aspersions. And it is to be hoped that the Maharaja will not be moved by them and will not shrink from doing his duty, and will boldly introduce measures of reform in the State.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 10th, 1895.

35. The *Bangavasi* of the 10th August understands that the Nizam has ordered furniture worth about two lakhs of rupees from England in view of his preparations for the reception of the Viceroy when His Excellency will visit Hyderabad, and observes that even the Viceroy's tours are a source of profit to British merchants.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 14th, 1895.

36. Whether or not it is admitted, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 14th August, that the bunds erected for protecting roads and rail-roads have obstructed the drainage of the country and brought malaria into the province, it cannot be denied that malarious fever was unknown to the people of Bengal before the construction of rail-roads, and that the fever spread over the whole province suddenly and within a very short space of time. The *Hindoo Patriot* says that the fever crossed the Bhagirathi from its eastern side to its western in 1864-65. But the writer remembers that the disease made its first appearance in Tribeni in the Hooghly district just after the rainy season in 1860 was over, and everybody knows that it has ever since committed fearful havoc there.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 15th, 1895.

37. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 15th August thinks it probable that Sir Charles Elliott is anxious to make a name like Mr. Walter of Rajputana by a wholesale reduction of Hindu marriage expenses. In Bengal the dowry has absorbed every other expense attendant upon a Hindu marriage celebration, and it will do immense good to society if the former can be reduced and the other vanishing items are restored to their former proportions. If the object of the present movement had been simply to retrench the dowry, Sir Charles Elliott would not have thought it worth his while to extend to it his co-operation, considering that marriage dowries are sufficiently heavy in England also. But it would be a mistake to cut down the other items. Rasik Babu has misled the officials by taking Mr. Walter's name in this connection. It would be best to leave matters alone in this respect.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 17th August, 1895.